The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Bad laws are the worst sort of tyranny.—Burke.

WHOLE NO. 1148 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1933 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 23, NO. 5

Jobless Insurance Loses in Maryland

The unscrupulous methods used by employers and their agents to defeat the compulsory unemployment insurance bill in the Maryland Senate is strongly condemned by thoughtful people. It passed the Lower House, but was killed in the Upper House by a vote of 17 to 11.

Under the bill unemployed workers would be paid very modest sums for a definite number of weeks to prevent their sinking into destitution. This was distasteful to antilabor employers. As soon as the measure reached the Senate anti-insurance lobbyists swoped down on Senators like a flock of vultures.

The Baltimore Sun declared that many of the lobbyists were lawyers and that none of them registered with the Secretary of State as required by the conditions of the General Assembly. The Sun said that the Senate in defeating the measure "fulfilled . . . the wishes of a lobby in which there were elements whose opposition to the measure was unworthy."

The Baltimore Catholic Review was more outspoken. In expressing its regret that the Baltimore Association of Commerce had aligned itself against the measure, the Review said:

"The fight against the Unemployment Insurance Bill is being sponsored by organizations which have paid big dividends in the past and given enormous salaries and bonuses to a few executives who have rolled in wealth. To maintain the swollen fortunes of the favored few shall we let the many suffer in the depths of poverty?

"Is Maryland Social-Minded or is it a State that will ignore its glorious traditions to pursue a policy of selfish greed and inhuman miserliness?

"Is Maryland the owner of its soul? Does Maryland value dollars more than human lives? Is Maryland to be swayed by the men of Wall Street, or by the power of those who are willing to make the most of their know and pray only that they be not tossed aside to die upon the scrap heap?

"Does Maryland place Selfishness before Justice? Does Maryland worship the god of Money or the God who created man to His own image and likeness?

"Has Maryland become a State of money-grabbers and money grubbers instead of a Commonwealth which has stood before the country as the champion of the Rights of Man?

"Will Maryland go forward or will it forget its traditions and cower in the dust?

"God help Maryland if it turns its back on humanity. Then will humanity in scorn turn its back on Maryland.

"God pity any legislature that will let the clamor of the seekers after gold drown the cries of distress of those who are seekers after Life."

Seventeen of the legislators so justly condemned in advance by the Review cast their votes against the unemployment insurance bill. As soon as the voters of Maryland get the opportunity they should retire the unpatriotic seventeen to private life.

6-Hour Day, 5-Day Week Needed To Provide Work for 6 Million Jobless

Senator Black Says It Is Imperative Duty of Congress to Enact Federal Shorter Hours Bill as a Major Measure to Relieve Unemployment, Restore Mass Buying Power, Mitigate Distress of Millions of Destitute, and Start Business Recovery.

Washington.—Prompt enactment of the bill to prevent interstate commerce in articles manufactured by labor employed more than five days per week or six hours per day was urged by the Senate Judiciary Committee in a report by Senator Black, the author of the measure.

"This is a bill intended to revive languishing interstate commerce in the products of mines, factories, and manufacturing establishments throughout the Nation," Senator Black said.

"Today interstate commerce is stranded and almost paralyzed by reason of an absence of purchasing power on the part of the people throughout the land. The overwhelming proportion of the customers in American farm, mine, and factory, are American workers on farms, in mines, and in factories.

Buying Power Destroyed

"Their millions of industrial workers without jobs cannot buy goods that make up interstate commerce. Millions of farmers are thus deprived of their principal customers. The channels of interstate commerce are dried up throughout the country, because men without jobs cannot buy.

"It is manifest to all who squarely face the facts that our economic structure cannot be rehabilitated until our people once more get fair wages and thus buy the things they need. It is also self-evident that we can produce all we can sell at home and in foreign trade on a shorter work week and work day than we have in force today.

Federal 30-Hour Law Required

"This report carries with it the belief that our unemployed cannot be put to work until the average hours of labor; that this reduction has not been, and cannot be accomplished by voluntary action on the part of employers; that it has not been done by State laws and cannot be done with sufficient certainty to meet the distressing emergency existing among the people of the institute, unemployed, and impoverished citizens.

Unemployment Menaces Civilization

"Time is vital in meeting this situation. The destruction of our interstate trade is destroying the purchasing power of the people. The standards of living, the health, the morale, the happiness, the growth, progress, educational opportunities, and the hope of the people, are purchasing power of America's unemployed, has closed our schools, stunted and blighted the growth, and imperilled our national advancement.

Jobless Must Have Work and Wages

"Only when the unemployed in interstate commerce cannot be revived without increasing the purchasing power of the people. The unemployed must have the income of farmers and industrial workers be increased sufficiently to give employment of the unemployed a major objective of any program to reopen the channels of interstate commerce which are today dry hinges the economic soundness of the Nation.

"Today America faces a sad reality. Hungry and despairing men and women have a right to demand that their representatives look at the modern situation with modern eyes. If change is needed to cure evils growing out of old practices, the time must come.

Shorter Hours to End Chaos

"This bill proposes to try a shorter working day and week in modern industrial chaos and confusion for a term of two years. We believe it will put millions of men and women now unable to be employed to work, remove them from the rolls of public or private charity, and give stimulation to industry that will chase the Nation's goods.

"Unemployment cannot be cannot live unless this unemployment ceases. It is for the purpose of preserving interstate commerce, with its great economic benefits that this bill is reported.

"It is in per cent with the hope and confidence throughout the land, to strike against poverty, sickness, misery and stunted mental physical growth, that your committee expresses the hope that this measure may be speedily enacted into law and interstate commerce revived for the people."

The Judiciary Committee's report also expressed the firm conviction that the legislation provided is within the strict conformity with the principles of the Federal Constitution.

RAILROADS ASK FIGURES TO BACK PAY CUT DEMAND

New York.—Eastern railroads are making investigations to prepare for their wage cuts at conferences with the organized workers to begin about June 15, and are seeking wage data from big New York State employers to support their case. The roads are sending out questionnaires to employers, asking information on wages similar in recent years. Information on reductions in the hours of work is also being sought.

It is ten per cent wage cuts taken by the railroad workers last year. In negotiations which became deadlocked and extended to Oct. 31, with each side granted the right to take action for change in rates as early as June 15. Notwithstanding that great numbers of railroad employes are idle or working part time that the wage cut of last year has failed to help the railroad situation, they are planning now plan to seek further reductions.

ORGANIZED BUSINESS STILL FIGHTING WORK INSURANCE

New York.—Despite the need for unemployment insurance, amply demonstrated during the present depression, organized business in New York State is still fighting the movement for compensation proposals. The insurance committee of the New York State Chamber of Commerce has expressed vigorous opposition to the standard unemployment insurance bill now before the Legislature, contending that the bill, which is supported by organized labor, would set up a system of relief or "dole" under the guise of insurance. Organized labor is not worried by the Chamber's opposition and is continuing its battle for unemployment insurance.

RICHBERG HITS PLANS FOR CUTTING RAIL JOBS

Washington.—At conferences to consider President Roosevelt's railroad coordination plans, Donald Richberg, attorney for the railroad labor unions, vigorously protested against any proposals that mean the discharge of more men, which, he said, would produce a "chaos of labor disputes."

Richberg declared "there is only one method whereby the Government could assume and fulfill its responsibility to protect the public interests, and that would be by the exercise in the emergency of complete and direct Federal control."

"If we can no longer pay the price of competitive wastes in order to obtain the benefits of competitive initiative and efficiency," he said, "then we should face the fact that we cannot compromise with partial competition and partial monopoly, and that a private monopoly of essential public service is intolerable, and that when we accept the necessity of monopolized transportation service we accept the ultimate necessity of an ultimate governmental transportation service."

NEW YORK DOCTORS OPPOSE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

State Medical Society Calls Wilbur Committee's Proposal "Visionary," But Favors Limited Form of Hospitalization Insurance—Free Treatment of "Worthy Poor" Approved.

New York.—New York doctors don't like proposals looking toward compulsory health insurance or any other form of the socialization of medicine.

At the annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York, the majority report of the Wilbur Committee on the Cost of Medical Care, which urges socialization of medicine on a group practice and fee-for-service basis based on a system of voluntary medical insurance, was criticized as "visionary" rather than practical.

The Medical Society, however, favored a limited form of hospitalization insurance for the wage-earning class "below the comfort level," provided physicians were permitted to charge patients a fee, as now.

The system favored by the society would entitle an insured person, for the payment of a small annual sum, hospital care in semi-private accommodations for a period of 21 days in any one year.

The society also approved free treatment for the "worthy poor," saying that they are "properly the charge of the community, and the cost of medical treatment for them should be paid for from taxation. The physician who treats them should be paid a minimum fee fixed by the community."

The society further said, "would be entitled to treatment in the organized hospitals of the community, or, with authorization of health departments or social service organizations, could be furnished treatment by physicians at their private offices, or at the patient's home at special fee rates fixed for such services."

Oregon Labor and Farmers Fight Sales Tax Proposal

Portland, Oregon.—An alliance of organized labor, the State Grange, and other organizations has been formed under the name of the Anti-Sales Tax Federation to defeat a sales tax proposal, which will be voted on at a special election on July 21. An active fight against the sales tax plan will be carried on by means of the radio, newspapers, direct mail advertising and public addresses. Ben T. Osborne of the State Federation of Labor is head of the new organization.

Jackson Labor Federation Serves 360,566 Free Meals

Jackson, Mich.—The Jackson Federation of Labor Relief Committee has served 475,000 meals since it was established. During the last week 5,394 meals were provided, 1,107 to women and children. This was an increase over the number during previous weeks, due probably to the closing down of several local factories. The material for the meals is furnished by business concerns, organizations, and individuals.

Atlanta Organized Labor Opposes Retail Sales Tax

Atlanta, Ga.—The Atlanta Federation of Trades declared its vigorous opposition to governor proposing a general retail sales tax now before the Georgia General Assembly and urged the State Federation of Labor to work against the measure.

The sales tax, the resolution adopted by the central body said, is contrary to the fundamental policy of taxation that those best able to pay should bear the most expense of government.

The resolution was introduced by John Scott, vice president of the central body.

New Jersey Governor Backs Women's 44-Hour Week Law

Trenton, N. J.—In a letter to Emil Rieve, president of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, Gov. A. Harry Moore promises to support a 44-hour week law for women in industry. Women in industrial and mercantile establishments now work 54 hours a week in New Jersey. A 44-hour week bill is now before the State Senate Committee on Labor and is being strongly supported by New Jersey labor.

Hitler Aims to Crush Toilers, British Labor Party's Warning

London.—In warning England against Fascism, the British Labor party said of the situation in Germany:

"Do not think the Jewish boycott of which you hear so much in the capitalist press is the whole story. What is going on in Germany is a deliberate attempt to suppress, by all the forces of coercion of which the Nazis form the spearhead, every form of working class activity."

RELIEF PROGRAM SCORED AS WHOLLY INADEQUATE

Railroad Labor Head Says Roosevelt Plan Will Do Little to Aid Idle and Calls Pay Proposed for Men in Conservation Camps "Vicious Attack on Decent Standards of Living."

Cleveland, O.—The wage scale of $1 a day for men doing reforestation and other conservation work, contained in President Roosevelt's unemployment relief program, is "wholly inadequate" and constitutes "a vicious attack upon decent standards of living," A. F. Whitney, chairman of the Railway Labor Executives' Association, declares in a letter made public here.

Mr. Whitney expressed approval of part of the President's program, but denounces it as a whole as "grossly inadequate." Of the conservation part of the program he says:

"It would place the Government's endorsement upon poverty at a bare subsistence wage. Further, it would reach about one unemployed man out of sixty.

"I might add that to my mind this is misleading to the public as it will naturally assume that the Government has taken an advanced step to relieve unemployment when as a matter of fact the program, as merely outlined, is approximately the same as existed in the Chinese coolie."

Relief Grants Approved

The President's proposal to give grants for relief work to the States is approved by the railroad labor head. He also supports the proposal to put works labor-creating program, if adequate wages are paid with the expenditure of the $5,000,000,000 as advocated by the Railway Labor Executives' Association.

Pointing out that the President's message outlining his program is silent on the shorter work day, Whitney says:

"I assert without fear of successful contradiction that any program that does not embrace a comprehensive plan immediately to reduce hours of service without a reduction of daily, weekly and monthly earnings will not reach our goal because purchasing power will not be thereby increased, and such a program will only serve as a palliative or temporary stimulant.

Urges "Cultural Wage"

"We are face to face with the cold fact that 11,000,000 men and women workers are approximately 29 billion dollars below what they were in 1929, and in my opinion it is a crime to approach this unemployment situation with a program that will only temporarily furnish a few hundred thousand men with employment."

Whitney says that precedents should be shoved aside and definite steps taken to bring about the "cultural wage" for worker at a "cultural wage." He urges elimination of the child labor in industry, in addition to shorter hours, to put adults to work and in closing expresses the hope that the people will support the President in "every genuinely constructive program that will substantially assist in pulling us out of the depression."

MILITANT UNIONISM URGED BY M'GRADY

A. F. of L. Legislative Representative Declares Office Workers Need Strong Labor Organization for Protection.

Washington.—In an address here before members of the Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants' Union No. 11772, Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, urged office employes to develop a militant spirit of militancy in order to maintain standards. McGrady pointed out that as a rule office workers have an erroneous conception of their social and economic standing and do not seem to realize that their interests are identical with the aspirations of other groups of workers.

He said that office workers must develop class consciousness and realize them that in times of industrial depression the wages of clerical workers are the first to go down because they have no competent organizations to protect them. He declared that the exploitation of white collar workers employed by Congressional committees and by the union the great field for organization that existed in this group.

"Office workers are subject to hostile conditions that will confront workers, he expressed in the years to come," he said. "A 30-hour week will solve the problem of unemployment and that in the future a man or woman will not be employed more so far as employment is concerned. "There is no reason," he added, "why office workers should not have a strong organization; it can be accomplished by developing a militant spirit."

In conclusion Mr. McGrady paid tribute to the progress of organization of S. T. B. & A. No. 11772, most of whom are A. F. of L. officials and officials of National and International Unions, but warned the office workers that the enlightened spirit of brotherhood shown by these employers should not interfere with the employees development of a spirit of militancy so necessary to the success of all trade unionists.

MERCHANTS OPPOSE BILL LIMITING HOURS OF WORK

New York.—A bill in the State Senate to limit the hours of workers in mercantile establishments is opposed by the Merchants' Association of New York. The bill passed would have the effect of forcing many small stores out of business, according to Samuel Reis, president of the association. Concerning primarily with retail, the Merchants' Association sees the bill only as hampering business and ignores benefits it might be to the workers.

The bill provides that no person owning or operating a mercantile establishment shall require employes to work more than eight hours in any day or to work last more than six days except on Friday and Saturday, when such employes shall not be required to work later than 9 P. M.

Rhode Island Labor to Meet

Providence, R. I.—The annual convention of the Rhode Island State Federation of Labor will be held in Providence on April 29 and 30. Among the important matters to be discussed is labor's eleven-point legislative program, now pending in the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Jobless Army Exceeds 13,000,000 And Is Growing Rapidly, Green Says

A. F. of L. President Declares Employers Are Using Roosevelt's Pay Reduction for Federal Workers to Justify More Wage Slashes in Private Industry — Government Must Intervene with Program to Make Work for Jobless.

Washington.—While increasing unemployment for huge masses of American workers and part-time jobs and low pay for those who have jobs are driving millions to the very primitive conditions of two hundred years ago, reactionary employers are using Roosevelt's 15 per cent wage cut for Government workers as an excuse for additional pay slashes in the already starvation wages in private industry, declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in his statement regarding the increased number of out-of-works during February and March.

"Unemployment increased in February, according to the Federation's estimate based on Government reports," Mr. Green, "and reports from trade unions show a still further increase in the month of March.

"Our estimate for January showed 12,821,000 out of work (revised figure) and in February unemployment increased to 12,940,000 (preliminary figure). March reports from unions show another increase, from 26.0 per cent of the membership out of work in February to 26.7 per cent in March (weighted figure). If the increase in unemployment for the country as a whole over the same proportions as in trade unions, some 226,000 more lost their jobs in March, bringing the total out of work in March well over 13,000,000.

New Downward Trend

"Increased unemployment at this time of year when industry usually takes on more workers for the spring busy season means that buying power is cut still more, deflation is going still further, a larger army of jobless are dependent on charity.

"This increase in March is particularly serious since it shows a new rising trend in unemployment. Last fall this trend started in September and the increase in unemployment was less than seasonal. But this spring there is a counter-seasonal trend and unemployment is definitely rising again. The fear-loaded consequences of this new increase cannot be overlooked. It means the beginning of a new downward trend.

Primitive Life for Millions

"As long as deflation continues we cannot hope to find out of the depression. Continuing deflation means continuing destruction of our human resources and our economic institutions. Millions are going back to the primitive life of two centuries ago and as their standard of living is reduced to starvation level the destruction of industry and its earning power until it can no longer make payment on debts.

Wage Reductions Fail

"If deflation is carried to its limit, our present civilization will be destroyed. The deflation policies must be upper hand. The Government salary cut has already started wage and salary cuts in industry. Wages are being cut immediately announced employer service cut; the Governor of New Jersey cut wages and salaries 10 per cent. Wage cuts mean further declines, rent declines, more liquidation, still lower levels of business and living.

"The only way out of this downward spiral is a vigorous Government program to get industry to work again and men back at their normal job producing and distributing goods.

72 Per Cent of Building Workers Idle

"Our unemployment reports show 72 per cent out of work in building, 50 per cent in manufacturing, 49 per cent in metal trades, 48 per cent in water transportation, 41 per cent out of work in clothing, although this is almost the peak of the season, 39 per cent in coal in motion pictures and theatres, 22 per cent in printing, where unemployment in March is reported 21 per cent. The figure of 26.7 per cent out of work in the building trades (weighted figure) compares with a normal of 8.5 per cent. The 26.7 per cent in 19 cities report an increase in unemployment in March, only 6 report any general gain.

Unemployment Statistics

Mr. Green accompanied his statement with the following statistics showing the increase in the total number of unemployed since April, 1930, and the percentage of trade union membership unemployed and on part-time work for the same period:

1930	Total unemployment Estimate of number unemployed in the United States	Trade union unemployment (Per cent of membership)
April	4,264,000	13.3
1932		
January	10,304,000	23.1
February	10,533,000	21.0
March	10,477,000	21.1
April	10,666,000	22.8
May	10,818,000	22.8
June	11,253,000	23.7
July	11,420,000	25.4
August	11,460,000	25.1
September	10,880,000	24.8
October	10,875,000	23.9
November	11,589,000	24.7
December	11,969,000	24.9
1933		
January	12,821,000	25.8
February	12,940,000	26.0
March		26.7*

* Preliminary.

TRADE UNION WOMEN PLAN BIG FIGHT ON SWEAT SHOP

New York.—The National Woman's Trade Union League has issued a call for a national conference to plan a determined fight on sweat shop products. The call says the conference will meet "to counteract the disastrous effects of growing sweat shop production in the garment industry on all legitimate factors concerned with it, the manufacturers, retailers and the great consuming public."

Rose Schneiderman, president of the league, said it is planned to bring into existence a label or tag to be attached to all garments made under wholesome, sanitary and decent working conditions, so that consumers may know the difference between articles made in legitimate shops and those made in "sweat shops."

UNIONS NECESSARY FOR OIL WORKERS

President Green of A. F. of L. Condemns Starvation Wages in Oil and Gas Industry—Urges Militant Trade Unionism to Boost Pay and Raise Working Conditions.

Washington. — Strong, closely-knit, militant trade union organization is the only instrument by which the oil field and gas well workers can hope to secure decent wages and decent working conditions, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared, in a statement urging all oil employes to join the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America.

"It must be clearly evident to all thinking people associated with the oil producing industry that the time has arrived when the workers employed in oil production should be organized for mutual protection," Mr. Green said.

"Wage rates and wage standards which have been forced down in the oil fields to a point where they are practically below a subsistence level, can never be increased until the workers organize, and through the exercise of their economic strength and premature influence bring about improvement in their wages and living standards.

"Employers do not grant wage advances voluntarily. Wages are increased when the workers are organized and strong enough to influence employers to increase wages and improve conditions of employment.

"There are human and fair operators who have invested their capital in the oil fields and who wish to see wages advanced, oil production improved, and decent prices paid both for the oil produced as well as the service performed.

"These humane employers can be helped and assisted through the organization of the workers in the oil fields.

"As a result of such action, the industry can be stabilized. Waste can be made uniform, destructive competition can be eliminated, and the industry itself advanced to a higher and more profitable level.

"I appeal to the oil workers to organize into the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America.

"This organization is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"Through such organization and cooperation the American Federation of Labor can assist the oil field workers and together we can engage in constructive work designed to bring back better living conditions and better working standards in the oil producing fields of the Nation."

Utility Companies Put Men on Five-Day Week

New York.—Approximately 900 men have been placed on the five-day week in the electrical and mechanical construction departments of the New York Edison Co. and United Electric Light and Power Co., subsidiaries of the Consolidated Gas Co. of New York. Officials of the companies said the five-day week was adopted in the hope that it would enable the companies to avoid a reduction in the working forces of the departments. The officials said similar adjustment of working hours would have to be made in other departments of Consolidated Gas companies.

42% of Building Costs Reported Going to Labor

Washington.—In a report by the Census Bureau showing actual construction work to be let values of $5,779,000,000, the combined cost of wages and materials entering into the actual construction work was $4,246,000,000. Of this amount, 42 per cent went for labor and 58 per cent for materials.

Establishments with an annual business of more than $25,000 received 38 per cent of the total construction business of all establishments, leaving only 14 per cent of that business to the credit of 113,729 establishments with an annual volume of less than $25,000. The labor and materials for the 30,579 establishments with a business of over $25,000 amounted to more than $2,500,000,000, or 72.5 per cent. This figure was divided 58.3 per cent for cost of materials and 41.7 per cent for wages paid.

MOTION PICTURE WAGE POLICY ROUNDLY SCORED

A. F. of L. Representative Declares Executives in the Industry Compel Workers to Retrench While Pocketing Enormous Salaries and Fat Bonuses Themselves.

Los Angeles, Calif.—Joseph M. Casey, representative of the American Federation of Labor, declared that there is only a mean advantage was taken of the banking holiday to put the workers of the motion picture industry in an unfavorable light and that the workers' side has not been presented. Discussing the situation and the recent move for wage reductions in the industry, he said:

"The major portion of the income of the motion picture industry is paid by the banking institutions of the country, the worker.

"For many years millions have been diverted into the pockets of the movie magnates through the steady flowing of the golden stream while the theatre patron at the box office.

"In their ever-increasing desire to capitalize solely for themselves, they have perfected and operated by combinations a racketeering monopoly. The tentacles of this octopus covered every city and hamlet in the country with a strangle hold on everything pertaining to the industry.

Wage Ultimatum Issued

"Taking advantage of the national bank holiday, an attempt was made to complete this pernicious circle by issuing, on March 8, an ultimatum to all workers, ordering a 25 per cent and 50 per cent wage cut effective on March 6, with the threat of closing their units and thereby refusing work by the workers.

"This wage reduction was demanded for a period of eight weeks, with no guarantee that plants would be kept open during or after the expiration of this term, nor was there any assurance that after the term stipulated period pay would be restored.

"This arbitrary demand stands unique in labor history and is based on very unsound reasoning.

"Over a billion and a half dollars were taken in at the box office of the film theatres last year. The pictures shown in these theatres represent a cost of only one hundred and fifty million dollars.

Where Did Profits Go?

"What happened to the rest of the money? Officially it is stated that the studios get back only thirteen cents of the dollar that goes into the box office, which would amount to $195,000,000.

"If studios spent only $150,000,000 during this period, there should be a profit of $45,000,000 somewhere; but its stead, there are only huge deficits.

"While workers are compelled to retrench, it might be well to investigate the enormous bonuses paid to executives, with illuminating results.

"The producers have attempted to manufacture with a little wisdom of their own. If the bank holiday and the frozen money have caused the necessity for such drastic action, why can half a payroll be met easier than all of it?

"If this drastic action is caused by falling off of theatre receipts, why not say so? Why not close studios until reorganization is made?

Why "Soak" Workers!

"When stockholders and high-salaried people are making sacrifices, why do they split with the workers? Then why should the worker take it on the chin now?

"Reducing a $1,500.00 a week executive down to $750.00 would bring the price of a sandwich and a cup of coffee. If half-starved stenographers, clerks and craftsmen, their earning capacity already reduced by lack and uncertainty of employment, are to sacrifice still more, why not cut the executives down to a $100.00 per week salary?

"Any picture can be produced efficiently without most of the over-stuffed entry whose extravagant salaries are charged against production cost of the film. But no picture can be made without good cameramen, technicians and craftsmen. These groups are responsible for 39 per cent of the studio operation. They comprise about 80 per cent of the total personnel and receive only approximately 20 per cent of the operating cost."

CLAIM OF BIG CHILD LABOR DROP DISPUTED

New York.—The National Child Labor Committee disputes the assertion that there has been a great decrease in child labor in South Carolina, as asserted recently by W. T. Jacobs, secretary of the South Carolina Cotton Manufacturers' Association. Since the Federal child labor law was held unconstitutional in 1920, child labor has been increasing rather than decreasing in South Carolina, the committee says.

The United States Census of 1920, taken when the Federal law was in operation, the committee declares, showed 2,690 children, 10 to 15 years, inclusive, employed as laborers and operatives in cotton mills of South Carolina, of whom ninety-nine were under 13 years.

The 1930 Census showed 3,449 children, an increase of 23 per cent, so employed, of whom sixty-nine were under 13 years, and these children constituted 5.4 per cent of all cotton mill operatives and laborers in the South Carolina mills.

"There may naturally have been some decrease since April, 1930, when the census was taken, but there is nothing to corroborate Mr. Jacob's statement that only 778 children are now employed, which would constitute an 80 per cent reduction.

"The committee does not believe that a child labor survey made by a South Carolina cotton manufacturers' association, which counts as 'cotton mill employed' only children of 14 and 15 years of age, and which admits on file, i. e., those known to be legally employed, has any statistical value as compared with house-to-house canvass by United States Census officers, for the South Carolina census, which was practically every other State, does not require proof of age for work permits and without this illegal employment is bound to be prevalent."

MARYLAND SENATE KILLS WORK INSURANCE MEASURE

Annapolis, Md.—The Maryland Senate killed the compulsory unemployment insurance bill, by a vote of 17 to 11, on the question of substituting the bill for the measure reported by the Judicial Proceedings Committee, headed by Senator Edmund Peter, one of Gov. Ritchie's spokesmen. The bill had previously been passed by the House.

Gov. Ritchie had endorsed the bill, but advocates of the measure charged his endorsement was "mere lip service," made for the benefit of the publicity he received from his statement that he hoped the measure would be passed by the Senate.

Lobbyists representing industries in all parts of Maryland fought the bill. None of them registered with the Secretary of State as required by the General Assembly regulations.

The bill was sponsored by the Municipal Commission on Employment Rehabilitation headed by Mayor Howard Simon E. Sobeloff, United States District Attorney.

The following Senators voted against the measure: Andrews, Atkinson, Bale, Black, Beck, Brashears, Byron, Ensor, Fooks, McComas, McIntosh, Jr., McKindless, Roe, Veasey, Ward, Webster, and Withgott.

Rhode Island Labor Backs Locked Out Pawtucket Typos

Pawtucket, R. I.—All Rhode Island labor rallied in support of members of Typographical Union No. 212 who were locked out early in March by the Pawtucket Times. The lockout is regarded as the opening move in an attack on union conditions in newspaper publishing plants throughout Rhode Island and New England. The printers were locked out by the Times in an attempt to establish the "open shop" in the paper's composing room. Contractual relations between the union and the Times existed for many years previous to the lockout.

Physician Champions British System of Health Insurance

New York.—The British health insurance system was championed by Dr. Alan D. McCleary, former senior medical officer of the Ministry of Health of Great Britain in speaking before the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of New York. Dr. McCleary declared the system has brought adequate medical treatment to the workers of persons who did not receive it before and had improved the standards of medical practice in England.

Mill on Three-Shift Operation

New Bedford, Mass.—As a result of increased tire fabric orders received from a tire plant in Akron, the Devon Mills of Columbia Falls, Columbia, county, is operating at full capacity on three shifts. About 1,000 workers are employed on the three-shift schedule.

Studio Pay Cuts Restored

New York.—Salaries reduced early in the year have fully restored at the studios, exchanges and New York offices of Columbia Pictures, Columbia announces. The cut, amounting to 25 and 50 per cent, went into effect at all studios on the eastern coast on April 1, beginning March 8. After a temporary shut down, production schedules have been resumed in the Hollywood studios and as a result, Columbia has restored salaries.

UNION OFFICIAL APPOINTED TO DIRECT FORESTRY WORK

Washington. — Robert Fechner of Massachusetts, vice president of the International Association of Machinists, has been appointed by labor leaders at Harvard and Dartmouth, has been appointed by President Roosevelt to be Director of Unemployment under the new act providing for employment of life in reforestation work. The act, which was opposed by the American Federation of Labor because of features smacking of "regimentation" and the provision for paying men in reforestation camps only $1 a day, is expected to result in the employment of 250,000 workers. The administration expects to have 25,000 men working in the forest camps within two weeks, it is announced.